

What is claimed is:

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1 1. A software tool creation method, comprising:
2 prompting input of process steps and a plurality
3 of potential selections associated with each of the
4 process steps;
5 storing input process steps and associated
6 potential selections; and
7 using the stored process steps and associated
8 potential selections to create a software tool for
9 outputting the input process steps based upon input
10 selections.

1 ✓ 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the prompting is
2 performed by a displayed template.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the prompting is
2 audible.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein input of a
2 designation is further prompted and stored, associating a
3 potential selection with a subsequent process step.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein one of the
2 potential selections permits input of a character string.

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4 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the created
5 software tool is displayed as sequential process steps with
6 potential selections.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein each of the
2 plurality of sequential steps in a process is displayed
3 concurrent with a single step and associated potential
4 selections.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein input of a query
2 is prompted as a process step.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein potential answers
2 to the query are prompted as associated potential
3 selections.

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1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of
2 a stored process step and potential selection in the
3 created software tool is modifiable.

1 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 prompting and storing input of a designation, associated
3 with a process step, indicating one of machine and non-
4 machine processing.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein upon receiving an
2 input designation indicating machine processing, further
3 input of information relating to the machine processing is

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4 prompted.

1 ~~Sub~~ 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the created
2 software tool sequentially conveys each of the input
3 process steps and prompts selection of a potential
4 selection for each process step.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the created
2 software tool is a wizard.

1 ~~Sub~~ 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the created
2 software tool sequentially displays each of the input
3 process steps.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein the created
2 software tool audibly sequentially outputs each of the
3 input process steps.

1 19. The method of claim 15, wherein conveyance of a
2 process step is dependent upon a selection made in response
3 to a previously conveyed process step.

1 ~~Sub~~ 20. A software tool creator, comprising:
2 a user interface, adapted to prompt input of
3 process steps and potential selections associated with
4 each of the process steps;
5 a memory adapted to store input process steps and
6 associated potential selections; and
7 a processor, adapted to create a software tool
8 based upon the stored process steps and associated
9 potential selections.

1 21. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface is displayed.

1 22. The software tool creator of claim 21, wherein
2 the user interface is an integrated input and display.

1 23. The software tool creator of claim 21, wherein
2 the user interface is a touch-screen.

1 ✓ 24. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface prompts audibly. 3

1 ✓ 25. The software tool creator of claim 21, wherein
2 the memory is adapted to store audibly input process steps
3 and associated potential selections. 4

1 ✓ 26. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface is further adapted to prompt input of a
3 designation, associating a potential selection with a
4 subsequent process step. 5

1 ✓ 27. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 one of the potential selections permits input of a
3 character string. 6

1 ✓ 28. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface prompts input of a query as a process
3 step. 7

1 ✓ 29. The software tool creator of claim 28, wherein
2 the user interface prompts input of potential answers to a
3 query as associated potential selections. 8

1 ✓ 30. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the memory is further adapted to store the created software
3 tool. 9

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1 ✓ 31. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein at
2 least one of a stored process step and potential selection
3 in the created software tool is modifiable through the user
4 interface.

1 ✓ 32. The software tool creator of claim 20, wherein
2 the user interface further prompts input of a designation,
3 associated with a process step, indicating one of machine
4 and non-machine processing.

1 ✓ 33. The software tool creator of claim 32, wherein
2 the user interface further prompts input of information
3 relating to the machine processing upon receiving an input
4 of a designation indicating machine processing. 14

1 34. The software tool creator of claim 33, wherein
2 the user interface further prompts input of a machine
3 connection. 12

1 35. The software tool creator of claim 34, wherein off
2 the input of the machine connection includes input of a
3 URL.

1 36. An article of manufacture, comprising:
2 a computer usable medium including,
3 first code for causing a computer to prompt
4 input of process steps and a plurality of
5 potential selections associated with each of the
6 process steps;
7 second code for causing a computer to store
8 input process steps and associated potential
9 selections; and
10 third code for causing a computer to create

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11 a software tool based upon the stored process
12 steps and associated potential selections. 2

1 37. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the first code causes the computer to prompt via a 2
3 displayed template.

1 38. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the first code causes the computer to audibly prompt. 3

1 39. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein
2 the first code and second code respectively cause the 4
3 computer to further prompt and store an input designation,
4 associating a potential selection with a subsequent process
5 step.

1 40. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein 9
2 the first code causes the computer to prompt input of
3 queries as the process steps.

1 41. The article of manufacture of claim 40, wherein 10
2 the first code causes the computer to prompt input of
3 potential answers to the queries as the associated
4 potential selections.

1 42. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein 13
2 the first code and second code respectively cause the
3 computer to prompt and store an input designation,
4 associated with a process step, indicating one of machine
5 and non-machine processing.

1 43. The article of manufacture of claim 42, wherein
2 the first and second code respectively cause the computer
3 to prompt and store input of information relating to the

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1 59. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
2 accessing prestored information upon receiving an
3 input designation indicating machine processing.

1 61. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 storing additional information associated with at
3 least one of a process step and potential selection.

1 63. The method of claim 57, wherein the prestored
2 information includes information stored in a text file
3 including a state table.

1 64. The method of claim 60, wherein the prestored
2 information includes information stored in a text file
3 including a state transition table.

1 65. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 selecting from a plurality of languages in which
3 prompting will occur.

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